

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Interviews

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his courtesy and consideration in discussing this Application in a set of telephone interviews on April 25 and April 27, 2006. As interviews after final are discretionary, the Applicant especially appreciates the opportunity.

On March 28, 2006 the Examiner and Applicant discussed independent claims 1 and 18, and certain changes that were needed to render these claims allowable under the rationale applicable to claim 9. That discussion was reflected in the amended claims submitted on April 5, 2006. However, due to an oversight, the Examiner nonetheless mailed an Advisory Action on April 20, 2006, not considering the amendments.

On April 25, 2006 the Examiner and Applicant again discussed independent claims 1 and 18, and that the changes made in the Amendment submitted on April 5, 2006 were specifically made to render these claims allowable under the rationale applicable to claim 9. It was also noted that the Examiner had stated that he would consider the amendments in the previous Interview. The Examiner agreed that claim 1, at least, appeared allowable, and stated that he would reconsider the amendment dated April 5, 2006, as previously agreed. He stated that he intended to issue a notice of allowance, and that no further action by the Applicant was necessary.

On April 27, 2006, the Examiner called the Applicant to request that this response be submitted for certain procedural purposes, and to summarize the interviews.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 9-13, 16, 17, and 24 are allowable. The other independent claims 1 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 9. Claims 1, 9, and 18 remain as the only independent claims. Each of the remaining dependent claims, claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, 16, 17, and 19-24, is believed to be patentable by virtue of its dependence from a claim having limitations identified in the Office Action as rendering the claim allowable.

Appl. No. 09/801,564
Amdt. dated April 28, 2006
Requested Response To Advisory Action

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MLD Drapkin", written over the printed name.

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